



Contact: Nancy Benecki, Public Information Officer
(201) 460-4662 nancy.benecki@njmeadowlands.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 21, 2006

North Bergen Receives GIS Technology from The Meadowlands Commission

NORTH BERGEN, N.J. – The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission's Geographic Information System (GIS) technology has now become a powerful tool for the Township of North Bergen, allowing municipal officials to have instant access to digital maps and municipal information.

"This technology is state-of-the-art, provides emergency personnel with life-saving information, and comes at no cost to North Bergen taxpayers," said NJMC Chairwoman Susan Bass Levin, also the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Commissioner. "This is another example of the Meadowlands Commission's commitment to providing outstanding service to our municipalities, whether it is through grants, technical assistance or access to equipment and information."

"The Meadowlands Commission should be commended for their efforts on behalf of our residents," said North Bergen Mayor Nick Sacco. "With their oversight of our endangered wetlands, and now improving overall safety in the area, the Commission is doing a great job. North Bergen couldn't have asked for a better partner."

A presentation was held this morning in North Bergen Township Hall. Presenting the equipment from the Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute (MERI), the scientific arm of the NJMC, were MERI Director Dr. Francisco Artigas, GIS Manager Dom Elefante, Eric Yadlovski, GIS Specialist, and other MERI staff members. North Bergen officials, including Mayor Nicholas Sacco, Township Commissioners and Township Administrator Christopher Pianese, were on hand for the presentation and to receive the GIS workstation. A tablet PC laptop computer with access to GIS information, which emergency officials can use from patrol cars, will be provided to North Bergen at the Nov. 28 NJMC meeting.

The GIS program is operated and continuously updated by MERI staff. The system creates maps, databases and other information useful to municipal workers. Information for GIS has been compiled from original paper maps, satellite images and other geographical documents available at the local, state and county level, such as Census data.

“GIS technology allows us to incorporate efficient government tools into our Meadowlands municipalities,” said NJMC Executive Director Robert Ceberio. “Now North Bergen can tap into our high-speed mapping database and use this information for planning, safety and other important municipal issues.”

The NJMC has allocated \$25,000 for each Meadowlands Municipality to receive the necessary training and hardware to be compatible with GIS. Another \$25,000 was allocated from the NJMC’s Municipal Assistance Program to purchase one tablet PC for each municipality. Of the 14 NJMC municipalities, the next towns to receive this technology will be Kearny, Lyndhurst and South Hackensack.

#####